

Letters to The Times

Crosstown Highway Opposed

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

Your editorial of Nov. 16 applauding the steps being taken for a Lower Manhattan Expressway includes a paragraph expressing "hope the Thirtieth Street project will also come to life now."

We regret you treat this subject editorially without weighing the views of those who are opposed to the Thirtieth Street project and by inference suggest the downtown and midtown problems are the same.

There is, however, a great difference in the types of buildings which would be demolished; an exceedingly important difference in the taxes which would be lost to the city; the types of businesses and industries which would be forced to move, some say, out of the city. The experience of other cities also shows property values are lowered when an elevated highway bisects a commercial area.

The position taken by our association and other organizations is to await completion of the arterial program designed for vehicles not destined for midtown to by-pass the area and if experience then indicates necessity for a mid-Manhattan crossing that it be underground. The initial cost of a tunnel would be greater, but over its life, compared with a viaduct, it would be cheaper and of greater value to the city.

WILLIAM H. BIRD,
Managing Director, Twenty-Third
Street Association.

New York, Nov. 16, 1959.

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